



OCASC January 2017 Meeting Minutes

chair@ocasc.ca www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc/ <http://ocasc.ca>

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: 19 January 2017
Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue
Time: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

Attendance

- Total attendance (44)
- Total schools represented (41)
- **Member schools attending (28)**

Adrienne Clarkson ES: Carrie McConnachie
Agincourt Road PS: Meghan Leitch
Alta Vista PS: Nancy Dean
Briargreen PS: Donna Owen
Canterbury HS: Nadine Clarke
Castlefrank ES: Ralph Quapp
Chapman Mills PS: Nita Tandon
Earl of March SS: Donna Williams, Catherine Roberts
Glashan PS: Gerry Nera
Glebe CI: Kerry Anderson
Glen Cairn PS: Christine Lindsay
Glen Ogilvie PS: Stephanie Ettinger
Goulbourn MS: Kiera Delgaty
Hopewell Avenue PS: Vicky Christie
Jockvale ES: Joe Allan

John McCrae SS: Ellen Dickson (Treasurer)
John Young ES: Kim Hope
Katimavik ES: Jennene Powers
Longfields-Davidson Heights SS: Susan Klimchuk
Manordale PS: Cathy Babyak (Membership)
Manotick PS: Sophie Paluck (Comms), Ryan Fullarton
Merivale HS: Lorrie Vidalin
Richmond PS: Fiona Sutherland
Sir Robert Borden HS: Maria Schnarr
South Carleton HS: Kiera Delgaty
South March PS: Christine Moulaison (Liaison Officer)
West Carleton SS: Mark Tymowski

Non-member Schools attending (13 schools attending; 13 representatives)

Barrhaven PS: Allen Garlow
Bell HS: Susanne Bowen
Bridlewood Community ES: Denise Nap
Broadview PS: Mo Tantavi
Elgin Street PS: Malaka Hendela (Co-chair)
First Avenue Public School: Dana Somayaji
Knoxdale PS: JP Larochette

Lisgar Collegiate: John Higgins (SSC chair)
Manor Park PS: Andrea Genereaux
Nepean HS: Shawn Tallon
Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS: Cathryn Pelosa
Steve MacLean PS: Shawna-Marie Gira
Stittsville PS: Stephanie Pulleyblank

Guests and non-school reps (1)

Susan Baker, OCDSB Policy Analyst



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1. Welcome and Call to Order (7:10)

Co-chair, Malaka Hendela, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda: Approved as presented. Motion: South March; Second: Glashan

Minutes: Approved as presented. Motion: Jockvale; Second: Alta Vista

3. From your Executive

Executive will consider how to better serve OCASC beyond Board issues, and will come back with plan at the next assembly meeting.

4. Committee Reports

Calendar Committee—Susanne Bowen:

- 2017-2018 calendar:
 - Pre-labour day start
 - As it happened this year, the Christmas break will start just before Christmas (22 December), and classes will start later (8 January 2018)
 - The PD day formerly tied to the May long weekend will be moved to late April to break up the long stretch between Easter and the May long weekend
- Comment from the floor about the pre-labour day start being complicated for families. The committee rep agreed that it may be problematic, but it cannot be avoided every 4 to 5 years.
 - Q: Are PD days the same for elementary and secondary?
 - A: yes, save for one exception in January
- Next committee meeting: Feb 2nd
- Send comments or questions to <mailto:susanne.bowen@icloud.com>

The Board is looking for volunteers for the Principal Selection Committee; interested members please contact Malaka.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)—Dana Somayaji

- Lots of discussion on budget: Looking to save \$500k, but this will have to be deferred
- A working group is being formed:
 - Will include reps from SEAC, trustees, principals, external members, and board staff
 - Will hold three meetings to discuss how to improve the gifted program, so it's more inclusive (no minutes, just brainstorming)
 - Three options will be put forward to SEAC
 - Terms of reference and constitution for the working group have not been set yet
- At the next SEAC committee meeting, our committee rep will report concerns about a lack of transparency and concerns that all voices will not be heard when the three options are shaped or when they go out for consultation (e.g. people who are not directly involved in gifted program).

Note: This is not OCASC's view, but rather the view of those assembled at the OCASC meeting (who had not had the chance to get back to our respective councils).



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- Main concerns from the floor:
 - How to ensure transparency?
 - How will the working group be formed, and how will we ensure all voices are heard? For example, will the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) be involved?
 - How will the committee process address the gap in consultation?

Committee of the Whole (COW)—Malaka

- **Special education:**
 - There will be no changes to delivery in 2017-2018, due to concerns about the impact of a changing delivery model.
 - Board will continue to explore delivery model options.
 - Not changing gifted program this year will have negative financial impact.
- **Complaints resolution policy and elementary review:**
 - These will be discussed at the COW on 24 January.
 - New documents have been circulated.
 - A line about how to resolve disputes within school councils has been added.
- **Elementary framework**
 - Delegations (submissions to COW) were submitted at last COW meeting, about the framework.
 - Comments, like those heard in the media, were made regarding how creating single-track schools could result in school closings.
 - The new framework document no longer contains 1.5-classroom target; it has been replaced with a more general statement.
 - Members are encouraged to attend next COW meeting to bring forward their concerns as parents or school councils

Q: Does the framework quantify potential savings?

A: No. These are harder to quantify. The driver seems to be providing equal access, not necessarily savings. It's not clear how the accommodation review will work for schools where the framework is physically impossible to implement.

Q: What will happen in areas with lots of middle schools? Will these schools be converted to elementary or secondary schools?

A: Don't know. We'll know when the accommodation review is undertaken.

Malaka asks if any members would like specific representations to be made at various committees (with the understanding that OCASC doesn't advocate for specific positions).

5. Chalk It Up

Q: How to run a combo Math night / speaking event / student led activities?

A:

- Keep speaking portion short and feed the kids during the speaking portion
- Get the kids excited about it a few days before so they can convince the parents to come

Q: Can the parents change what they use the PRO grant for?



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A: Yes. Call the Ministry for more info.

Q: Best practices for outdoor classrooms

A:

- Save for a few years. It's very expensive, because schools are not allowed to use resources from the community.
- Seating area must be accessible to the whole school.
- Structures have to meet certain requirements. Contact Paul Fournier, at the Board, for more info.
- Principal can help liaise with the Board about the procurement process.
- Not economical to spread it out over two years, because the procurement process must be triggered twice.
- Consider including training for the teachers, so they can make the most of it.
- Get grants (one school got grants from the City and from a bank).
- Elmdale just finished unconventional outdoor classroom, so it would be a good one to visit for ideas.

Malaka suggested setting aside time to “deep dive” topics, such as outdoor classrooms.

Q: Are there any interactive options for math event to help parents understand the new curriculum?

A:

- Mathletes (<http://mathletes.ca>)
- Jump 2 Math (<https://jump2math.ca>)
- Scientists in the Schools (<http://www.scientistsinschool.ca>) are developing a new program for math.
- PRO grants can be used for whole-family nights, not just parents.
- Some schools' teachers will run family math nights themselves

Q: Who can make decisions about murals in schools?

A: Talk to Board liaison Susan Baker for this and any other policy issue

A suggestion was made to put Chalk It Up FAQs on the website.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. Motion: Sir Winston Churchill; Second: Manotick Co-chair, Malaka Hendela, thanked everyone for attending and for the discussions.

Next meeting: 16 February 2017